PACKAGE INTEGRITY INDICATING CLOSURE

Applicant: Intercontinental Great Brands LLC; East Hanover, NJ (US)

Inventors: Carole A. Vogt, Budd Lake, NJ (US); Jeffrey Thomas Weber, Lake Zurich, IL (US)

Assignee: Intercontinental Great Brands LLC; East Hanover, NJ (US)

Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

Appl. No.: 13/669,811
Filed: Nov. 6, 2012

Prior Publication Data

Related U.S. Application Data
Continuation of application No. 11/693,751, filed on Mar. 30, 2007, now Pat. No. 8,408,792.

Int. Cl.
B65D 33/14 (2006.01)
B65D 75/58 (2006.01)
B65D 77/20 (2006.01)

U.S. Cl.
CPC ........ B65D 75/5838 (2013.01); B65D 77/206 (2013.01); B65D 77/2096 (2013.01);
(Continued)

Field of Classification Search
CPC ................ B65D 75/5838; B65D 2575/586; B65D 75/5833; B65D 2101/00
USPC ............... 383/203, 5, 116, 210, 211, 207, 208,

ABSTRACT
A resealable closure for a container or package in which package integrity is indicated by a structure which breaks and/or produces an audible sound when the resealable closure is opened for a first time. The package integrity feature, in one form includes at least one strip or fragilizable structure that is initially affixed to two portions which comprise the resealable closure so that upon opening the resealable closure for a first time, at least one of the strips breaks. The strips may include a weakened portion such as a narrowing. Integrity of the package is indicated by an intact strip viewable upon opening the resealable closure and conversely, a broken or non-intact strip would indicate that the resealable closure has been previously opened. Package integrity may also be shown by a movable second panel or movable die cut tab portions.

23 Claims, 11 Drawing Sheets
### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patent Number</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Inventor(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,001,325</td>
<td>3/91</td>
<td>Huizinga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,005,264</td>
<td>4/91</td>
<td>Breen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,010,231</td>
<td>4/91</td>
<td>Huizinga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,018,625</td>
<td>5/91</td>
<td>Focke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,029,712</td>
<td>7/91</td>
<td>O'Brien et al.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,040,685</td>
<td>8/91</td>
<td>Focke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,046,621</td>
<td>9/91</td>
<td>Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,048,718</td>
<td>9/91</td>
<td>Nakamura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,054,619</td>
<td>10/91</td>
<td>Mackenflhs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,060,848</td>
<td>10/91</td>
<td>Ewan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,065,868</td>
<td>11/91</td>
<td>Cornelissen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,076,439</td>
<td>12/91</td>
<td>Kuchenbecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,077,964</td>
<td>12/91</td>
<td>Huszad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,078,509</td>
<td>1/92</td>
<td>Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,082,702</td>
<td>1/92</td>
<td>Alband</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,085,724</td>
<td>2/92</td>
<td>Focke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,096,113</td>
<td>3/92</td>
<td>Focke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,100,033</td>
<td>3/92</td>
<td>Jud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,103,980</td>
<td>4/92</td>
<td>Kuchenbecker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,108,669</td>
<td>4/92</td>
<td>van Dijk et al.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,124,388</td>
<td>6/92</td>
<td>Poot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,125,311</td>
<td>6/92</td>
<td>O'Brien</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,130,401</td>
<td>7/92</td>
<td>Osgood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,158,499</td>
<td>10/92</td>
<td>Gackenberger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,161,350</td>
<td>11/92</td>
<td>Nakamura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,167,455</td>
<td>12/92</td>
<td>Forman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,167,974</td>
<td>12/92</td>
<td>Grindrod</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,174,659</td>
<td>12/92</td>
<td>Laske</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,184,771</td>
<td>2/93</td>
<td>Jud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,190,152</td>
<td>3/93</td>
<td>Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,197,618</td>
<td>3/93</td>
<td>Goth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,222,422</td>
<td>6/93</td>
<td>Brenner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,222,813</td>
<td>6/93</td>
<td>Kopf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,229,180</td>
<td>7/93</td>
<td>Litmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,294,470</td>
<td>3/94</td>
<td>Ewan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,307,988</td>
<td>5/94</td>
<td>Focke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,333,735</td>
<td>8/94</td>
<td>Focke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,344,007</td>
<td>9/94</td>
<td>Nakamura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,352,466</td>
<td>10/94</td>
<td>Delonis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,356,068</td>
<td>10/94</td>
<td>Moreno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,366,087</td>
<td>11/94</td>
<td>Bane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,371,997</td>
<td>12/94</td>
<td>Kopp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,374,179</td>
<td>12/94</td>
<td>Swanson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,375,698</td>
<td>12/94</td>
<td>Ewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,381,643</td>
<td>1/95</td>
<td>Kazaiis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,382,190</td>
<td>1/95</td>
<td>Graves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,388,757</td>
<td>2/95</td>
<td>Lorenzen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,405,929</td>
<td>4/95</td>
<td>Marnocha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,407,070</td>
<td>4/95</td>
<td>Bascos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,409,115</td>
<td>4/95</td>
<td>Barkhorn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,409,116</td>
<td>4/95</td>
<td>Arosen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,439,102</td>
<td>8/95</td>
<td>Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,459,102</td>
<td>8/95</td>
<td>Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,454,207</td>
<td>10/95</td>
<td>Storandt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,460,838</td>
<td>10/95</td>
<td>Wermund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,460,844</td>
<td>10/95</td>
<td>Gaylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,461,845</td>
<td>10/95</td>
<td>Yeager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,464,092</td>
<td>11/95</td>
<td>Seekley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,470,015</td>
<td>11/95</td>
<td>Jud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,489,060</td>
<td>2/96</td>
<td>Godard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,499,757</td>
<td>3/96</td>
<td>Back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,503,858</td>
<td>4/96</td>
<td>Reskov</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,505,305</td>
<td>4/96</td>
<td>Schoz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,515,955</td>
<td>5/96</td>
<td>Boldrini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,519,982</td>
<td>5/96</td>
<td>Herber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,521,935</td>
<td>5/96</td>
<td>Wells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,524,759</td>
<td>6/96</td>
<td>Herzberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,531,325</td>
<td>7/96</td>
<td>Delharder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,538,129</td>
<td>7/96</td>
<td>Chester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,550,346</td>
<td>8/96</td>
<td>Andrias</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,558,438</td>
<td>9/96</td>
<td>Warr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,582,342</td>
<td>12/96</td>
<td>Jud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,582,853</td>
<td>12/96</td>
<td>Marnocha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,582,887</td>
<td>12/96</td>
<td>Ethereedge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,591,468</td>
<td>1/97</td>
<td>Stockley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,630,308</td>
<td>5/97</td>
<td>Gackenberger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### References Cited

- **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**
  - 3,1991 Huizinga
  - 4,1991 Breen
  - 4,1991 Huizinga
  - 5,1991 Focke
  - 7,1991 O'Brien et al.
  - 8,1991 Focke
  - 9,1991 Bell
  - 9,1991 Nakamura
  - 10,1991 Mackenflhs
  - 10,1991 Ewan
  - 11,1991 Cornelissen
  - 12,1991 Kuchenbecker
  - 12,1991 Huszad
  - 1/1992 Center
  - 1/1992 Alband
  - 2/1992 Focke
  - 3/1992 Focke

- **References**
  - Huizinga Breen
  - Huizinga Focke
  - OBrien et al.
  - Focke Bell
  - Nakamura Muckenfuhs
  - Ewan Cornelissen
  - Kuchenbecker Hustad
  - Center Reskow
  - Scholz Boldrini
  - Herber Wells
  - Herzberg Deflander
  - Chester Andriash
  - Warr Jud
  - Marnocha Etheredge
  - Stockley Guckenberger
  - ...
### References Cited

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patent Number</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Inventor(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0047636</td>
<td>9/1991</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0474891</td>
<td>3/1992</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0488967</td>
<td>6/1992</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0546369</td>
<td>6/1993</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0608909</td>
<td>8/1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0613824</td>
<td>9/1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0629561 A2</td>
<td>12/1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0661154</td>
<td>7/1995</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0660204 B2</td>
<td>8/1995</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0744357</td>
<td>11/1996</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0752375</td>
<td>1/1997</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0758993</td>
<td>2/1997</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0796208</td>
<td>9/1997</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0905048 A</td>
<td>3/1999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1046594</td>
<td>10/2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1056066</td>
<td>11/2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1086906 A2</td>
<td>3/2001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1136379</td>
<td>9/2001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1288139</td>
<td>3/2003</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1350741</td>
<td>10/2003</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1373580 A1</td>
<td>1/2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1382543 A2</td>
<td>1/2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1437311 A1</td>
<td>7/2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1457424</td>
<td>9/2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1468936</td>
<td>10/2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1477425 A1</td>
<td>11/2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1488936</td>
<td>12/2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1608567</td>
<td>12/2005</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1609737</td>
<td>12/2005</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1619537 A1</td>
<td>1/2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1712468</td>
<td>10/2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1712488 A1</td>
<td>10/2006</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1755980</td>
<td>2/2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846360</td>
<td>10/2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858776</td>
<td>11/2007</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873082 A1</td>
<td>1/2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908996</td>
<td>4/2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1939107</td>
<td>7/2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975081 A1</td>
<td>10/2008</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2033910</td>
<td>3/2009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2180906</td>
<td>5/2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2379124 A1</td>
<td>5/1963</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2674509</td>
<td>10/1992</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2693988</td>
<td>1/1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2766794</td>
<td>2/1999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2789351</td>
<td>3/2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1107200</td>
<td>3/1968</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2171077</td>
<td>8/1986</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2266513</td>
<td>11/1993</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2276095 A</td>
<td>9/1994</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57163658</td>
<td>10/1982</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S8224211 B2</td>
<td>5/1983</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6080405</td>
<td>5/1985</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62171479</td>
<td>10/1987</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63022370</td>
<td>1/1988</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01167084 A</td>
<td>6/1989</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01226579 A</td>
<td>9/1990</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01267182 A</td>
<td>10/1990</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H13134568</td>
<td>12/1990</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H0581083</td>
<td>11/1993</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0914255 A</td>
<td>6/1997</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9150872</td>
<td>6/1997</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H91956577 A</td>
<td>6/1997</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10059441</td>
<td>3/1998</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10120685</td>
<td>5/1998</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H10152279 A</td>
<td>9/1998</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10120016</td>
<td>12/1998</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11198977</td>
<td>7/1999</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000335542 A</td>
<td>12/2000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001114357</td>
<td>4/2001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001301807</td>
<td>10/2001</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002020205 A</td>
<td>1/2002</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002104550 A</td>
<td>4/2002</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003026224 A</td>
<td>1/2003</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Patent Number</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BR</td>
<td>62020307</td>
<td>4/2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BR</td>
<td>68046367</td>
<td>10/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN</td>
<td>1224396 A</td>
<td>7/1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN</td>
<td>1781819 A</td>
<td>6/2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>1848070</td>
<td>3/1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>3700988 A1</td>
<td>7/1988</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>3835721 A1</td>
<td>5/1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>9003401</td>
<td>5/1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>9005297</td>
<td>8/1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>9014065</td>
<td>2/1991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>4134567 A1</td>
<td>1/1993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>4241423</td>
<td>6/1994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>19738411</td>
<td>3/1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>19822328 A1</td>
<td>11/1999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>200204012301</td>
<td>12/2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>20122333</td>
<td>3/2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>200207605487</td>
<td>6/2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>102060730267 A1</td>
<td>1/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE</td>
<td>1020119867 A1</td>
<td>9/2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP</td>
<td>0682589</td>
<td>8/1983</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP</td>
<td>0388810</td>
<td>9/1990</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

JP 
2003026224 1/2003 
JP 
2003072774 3/2003 
JP 
2003137314 5/2003 
JP 
2005015015 1/2005 
JP 
2006027676 2/2006 
JP 
2006062712 3/2006 
JP 
2006137445 A 6/2006 
JP 
2007045434 A 2/2007 
JP 
2009166870 7/2009

WO 
8606350 11/1986 
WO 
9104920 4/1991 
WO 
9411270 A1 5/1994 
WO 
9532902 12/1995 
WO 
9725200 7/1997 
WO 
0664755 11/2000 
WO 
0140073 A1 6/2001 
WO 
0266436 A1 8/2002 
WO 
02666341 8/2002

WO 
03019796 A1 2/2003 
WO 
03035504 5/2003 
WO 
03077727 5/2003 
WO 
03059776 A1 7/2003

WO 
2004087527 A1 10/2004 
WO 
2005054079 6/2005 
WO 
2005056420 6/2005 
WO 
2005110042 11/2005 
WO 
2005110865 11/2005 
WO 
2005110876 11/2005 
WO 
2005110885 A2 11/2005 
WO 
2005120089 12/2005 
WO 
2005123535 A1 12/2005 
WO 
200605128 A2 5/2006 
WO 
2006080405 8/2006 
WO 
2006106144 10/2006 
WO 
2007090419 8/2007 
WO 
2008051813 5/2008 
WO 
2008062159 A1 5/2008 
WO 
2008074060 6/2008 
WO 
2008108969 9/2008 
WO 

WO 
2008122961 10/2008 
WO 
2008146142 12/2008 
WO 
2009065120 5/2009 
WO 
2009111513 9/2009 
WO 
2010002834 1/2010 
WO 
2010046623 4/2010 
WO 
2010080810 7/2010 
WO 
2010084336 A1 7/2010 
WO 
2010088492 A1 8/2010 
WO 
2011041879 A1 10/2010 
WO 
2011049956 A1 12/2010 
WO 
2011044156 A2 1/2011 
WO 
2011121337 A2 10/2011

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

'Wall’s Bacon A Sizzling Success Story' and The Grocer: "When sealed deliver's", the second page of which bears a date of Aug. 21, 1999.
Defendants’ Final Invalidity Contentions—Exhibit B-1, dated Sep. 27, 2013, 35 pages.
Defendants’ Final Invalidity Contentions—Exhibit B-2, dated Sep. 27, 2013, 64 pages.
Defendants’ Final Invalidity Contentions—Exhibit B-3, dated Sep. 27, 2013, 140 pages.
Defendants’ Final Invalidity Contentions—Exhibit B-5, dated Sep. 27, 2013, 146 pages.
Defendants’ Final Invalidity Contentions—Exhibit B-6, dated Sep. 27, 2013, 226 pages.
Defendants’ Final Invalidity Contentions Pursuant to LPR 3.1, dated Sep. 27, 2013, 22 pages.
Defendants’ Final Unenforceability Contentions Pursuant to LPR 3.1, dated Sep. 27, 2013, 14 pages.
Defendants’ Initial Non-Infringement Contentions Pursuant to LPR 2.3(a), dated May 17, 2013, 7 pages.
Defendants’ Invalidity Contentions Pursuant to LPR 2.3, dated May 17, 2013, 23 pages.
Defendants’ LPR 2.3 Initial Non-Infringement Contentions Exhibit A, dated May 17, 2013, 39 pages.
Defendants’ Unenforceability Contentions Pursuant to LPR 2.3, dated May 17, 2013, 13 pages.
Fuji Packaging GmbH Fachpack brochure, Oct. 11-12, 2001; 2 pgs.
Giant Baby Wipes package, item No. 80203-91, resealable package having die cut-out portions (tabs) which remain affixed to the top of the package after label is withdrawn from the top, whereby tamper evidence is indicated by a misalignment of the die cut-out portions with the holes formed in the label.
References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS


Machine translation of claim for BR 5500885-2 from Google translate.com; 1 pg.

Machine translation of claim for BR 6202030-7 from Google translate.com; 1 pg.

Machine translation of claim for BR 6804636-7 from Google translate.com; 1 pg.


Plaintiff’s Initial Response to Defendant’s Initial Invalidity Contentions, dated May 31, 2013, 20 pages.


Declaratory Exhibits from Declaration of James Lukas Jr. filed Mar. 26, 2015, 73 pages.


Declaration of James J. Lukas, Jr. in Support of Defendants’ Opposition to Plaintiff’s Motions for Summary Judgment with Exhibits (reduced), dated May 28, 2015, 228 pages.


Defendants’ LR 56.1 (b) (3) (C) Statement of Additional Material Facts in Support of Their Opposition to Plaintiff’s Motions for Summary Judgment (reduced), dated May 28, 2015, 30 pages.


Defendants’ Motion to Compel Discovery, dated Oct. 13, 2014, 3 pages.


Exhibits, part 3, to Declaration of Katie Crosby Lehmann in Support of Plaintiff’s Consolidated Memorandum of Law in Support of Plaintiff’s Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment (reduced), dated May 8, 2015, 100 pages.


Exhibits, part 5, to Declaration of Katie Crosby Lehmann in Support of Plaintiff’s Consolidated Memorandum of Law in Support of Plaintiff’s Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment (reduced), dated May 8, 2015, 100 pages.

Exhibits, part 6, to Declaration of Katie Crosby Lehmann in Support of Plaintiff’s Consolidated Memorandum of Law in Support of Plaintiff’s Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment (reduced), dated May 8, 2015, 300 pages.


Exhibits from Plaintiff’s Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Defendants’ Motion to Compel Discovery, Oct. 15, 2014, 78 pages.
References Cited

OTHER PUBLICATIONS


Plaintiff’s Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Defendants’ Motion to Compel Discovery, Oct. 15, 2014, 12 pages.


* cited by examiner
PACKAGE INTEGRITY INDICATING CLOSURE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/693,751, filed Mar. 30, 2007, which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a resealable closure for packages storing articles and, more particularly, such resealable closures having a package integrity indicator.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Some containers for food products, such as cookies and other snacks, typically include an outer wrapper. In one type of container, the wrapper surrounds a frame which acts as a tray to hold the food product and to protect the food product from damage. Other food products are packaged in plastic trays, such as thermoform trays which are sealed on the top using some type of lidding material. One recent advancement in the art of food container closures includes a resealable closure disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 6,918,532 (hereinafter the '532 patent), wherein the closure is made from a material which allows for the removal of the closure and the reclosing of the container.

In the packaging art, different structures have been used to indicate whether a package has been previously opened or whether the integrity of the package has been compromised, which structures are often referred to in the art as “tamper-evident.” For example, one recent package integrity indicating closure is disclosed in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/500,497 hereinafter the '497 application and incorporated by reference, which shows a closure comprising a two-ply material having an inner film layer and an outer film layer forming a top of a container. The outer film layer has a sealing panel covering a portion of the inner film layer which, with the sealing panel, forms an opening. The package integrity feature comprises a panel of the inner film layer which separates from the sealing panel to indicate that the closure has been previously opened.

There is a need for improvement in the art of package integrity indicators for a resealable closure, preferably suitable for use with a resealable closure for containers or packages containing food items.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally relates to a resealable closure for a container in which package integrity is indicated by a frangible or breakable structure which breaks and/or produces an audible sound when the resealable closure is opened for a first time.

The present invention, in one form, comprises a package integrity feature having a structure associated with a resealable closure. The structure preferably produces an audible sound when the resealable closure is opened for a first time. In one form, the structure comprises at least one strip initially affixed to a stationary and a movable portion of the resealable closure so that upon opening the resealable closure for a first time, at least one of the strips breaks, preferably producing the audible sound. The strips may include a weakened portion such as a narrowing at one location along its length. Integrity of the package is indicated by an intact strip viewable upon opening the resealable closure and conversely, a broken or non-intact strip would indicate that the resealable closure has been previously opened.

In a further form, package integrity is evidenced by a see-through window in the resealable closure so that a portion is visible therethrough prior to the closure being opened for a first time, but not visible therethrough after the closure has been opened for a first time and resealed. This portion may be one of the strips or it may be a second panel which is separate from the strips.

In another further form, the structure comprises at least two strips, wherein at least one strip will break at a different time than another one or more strips upon opening the resealable closure, thereby preferably producing at least two separate audible sounds as each strip breaks.

The package integrity feature may comprise a closure for a package having a top, an access opening in the top and a sealing panel which covers the access opening and sealingly engages the top around the access opening so as to originally seal the package and then, after having been opened a first time, be resealable against the top. A structure is associated with the resealable closure which preferably produces an audible sound when the resealable closure is opened for a first time. Advantageously, the structure produces an audible sound prior to being able to remove an item contained within the package.

The present invention, in another form, relates to a package integrity indicating closure comprising a film layer forming the top of a container and having a flap defining an access opening to gain access to the contents of the container and having at least one strip joining the flap to a remaining portion of the top. A sealing panel completely covers the flap including the at least one strip of the film layer. A releasable adhesive provided on either or both the sealing panel or on the film layer adheres the sealing panel to the film layer. The sealing panel is releasable from the film layer by pulling the sealing panel back in a peeling direction and is resealable against the top to seal the access opening when the sealing panel is moved back against the top. Upon peeling the sealing panel back for a first time, the at least one strip joining the flap to the top breaks.

The package integrity indicating closure may also comprise at least a two-ply material comprising an inner layer adhesively joined to an outer layer and, together, forming a top of the container. The inner layer has a first panel, a second panel, and at least one strip joining the first panel to a remaining portion of the top of the container. The outer layer has a sealing panel formed therein which completely covers the first panel, covers the strip and covers the second panel of the inner layer. The first panel and the sealing panel are permanently joined to each other to provide an access opening into the container. A releasable adhesive provided around a perimeter of the sealing panel adheres the sealing panel to the inner layer and the second panel. The sealing panel is releasable from the inner layer and is separable from the outer layer by pulling the sealing panel back in a peeling direction and resealable against the top to seal the opening when the sealing panel is moved back against the top. Upon opening the closure for a first time, the at least one strip between the first panel and the remaining portion of the top of the container breaks. After closing, the second panel is separated from the sealing panel. Advantageously, in one form, the at least one strip is integrally formed with the inner layer.
Package integrity may also be indicated by misalignment of sealing panel holes with tab portions after the sealing panel has been opened and resealed.

Food items disposed in the container may include but are not limited to cookies, crackers, peanuts, cheese, sliced meats, and semi-solid foods.

Other features and advantages of the present invention are stated in or apparent from detailed descriptions of the presently preferred embodiments of the invention found herebelow.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES**

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a package including an exemplary closure prior to an initial opening, according to the present invention;

FIG. 2a is the package of FIG. 1, shown in a first partially opened condition;

FIG. 2b is the package of FIG. 1, shown in a further partially opened condition relative to that of FIG. 2a;

FIG. 3 is a partial plan view of the closure of FIG. 1, as viewed from below in its initial condition prior to being opened for the first time according to the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a partial plan view of the closure of FIG. 1, after an initial opening and reseal, according to the present invention;

FIG. 5 is a perspective view of another package, including a closure that has been opened, in accordance with the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of another package, including another closure prior to an initial opening, according to the present invention;

FIG. 7 is the package of FIG. 6, shown in a partially opened condition;

FIG. 8 is a partial plan view of the closure of FIG. 6, after an initial opening and reseal, according to the present invention;

FIG. 9 is a perspective view of another package, including another closure, shown in a partially opened condition; and

FIG. 10 is a partial plan view of the closure of FIG. 9, after an initial opening and reseal, according to the present invention.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

Referring to the figures and, in particular, FIGS. 1-4, there is shown package 10 with closure 11, which incorporates a package integrity feature. Package 10 includes a two-ply wrapper comprising a first, inner film layer 12 and a second, outer film layer 13, forming a top or upper surface 14, sides 16, lower surface (not shown), and crimped ends 18, 19. The inner film layer 12 and outer film layer 13 are formed from a polymeric film or other flexible material that has been cut, folded or otherwise pressed to define an inner space or receptacle for receiving the desired product, such as food items, to be provided within the package 10. Package 10 can be used to store and distribute food items such as cookies, crackers, candy or other items. The outer film layer 13 may include graphics or other indicia to identify the contents of the package 10.

Advantageously, the inner film layer 12 is coextensively formed and adhesively joined to the outer film layer 13. During the manufacturing of the package 10, the first, inner film layer 12 is die cut on its side via first tear line 20, which includes all of the dashed lines in FIG. 1, other than second tear line 23. Outer film layer 13 is die cut on its side via a third tear line 21 and die cuts 25. Inner and outer tear lines are disclosed in U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0276525, herein incorporated by reference.

The first tear line 20 is formed as a continuous tear line to define a first panel 22. The first tear line 20 also defines a plurality of strips 50, 52, 54. A second tear line 23 forms a second panel 42 which also serves to indicate package integrity.

The first panel 22 can be separated from the remainder of the inner film 12 to expose an opening 24 whereby access to the contents of the package may be gained after the strips 50, 52, 54 have broken (FIG. 2a, 2b). Each strip 50, 52, 54 is integrally joined, and remains attached to the remaining portion of the inner layer 12 which comprises the top 14 at strip portions 50a, 52a, 54a, respectively, and a portion of the strips 50, 52, 54 remains integrally attached to the first panel 22 at strip portions 50b, 52b, 54b, respectively. Each strip 50, 52, 54 has a weakened portion defined by a narrowing in the width of the strip at portions 50c, 52c, 54c, respectively. The narrowing portions 50c, 52c, 54c provide an area of weakness to the respective strip 50, 52, 54 whereby the respective strip breaks at the narrowing portions 50c, 52c, 54c upon opening the closure 11 for a first time.

Strip portions 50b, 52b, 54b are integrally joined to the first film layer flap 22 at strip ends 50d, 52d, 54d in the shape of parallel “U”s which help ensure that the strips 50, 52, 54 will not tear at strip ends 50d, 52d, 54d and will remain integrally joined to the first panel 22 and allow the strips 50, 52, 54 to break at the weakened narrowing strip portions 50c, 52c, 54c, respectively.

The second panel 42 remains integrally joined to the inner film layer 12 at end 44, even after the package is opened, and the remainder of the second panel 42 falls down into the opening 24 as described in more detail in the ‘497 application.

The third tear line 21 defines sealing panel 26 of the outer film layer 13 and the die cuts 25 define a plurality of tab portions 27 in the sealing panel 26. The sealing panel 26 extends beyond the periphery of the first tear line 20 and the second tear line 23 adjacent to the opening 24, so that the sealing panel 26 completely covers and extends beyond the perimeters of the first panel 22, strips 50, 52, 54, and the second panel 42. As a result, sealing panel 26 completely covers the first panel 22, the strips 50, 52, 54, and the second panel 42.

The side of the sealing panel 26 which faces the inner film layer 12, including tab portions 27, is coated with a releasable adhesive 28 (see FIGS. 2a, 2b) so that the sealing panel 26 may be resealably secured to the inner film layer 12 at a portion adjacent the first panel 22, and so that the tab portions 27 remain permanently affixed to the inner film layer 12.

Alternatively or along with releasable adhesive 28, releasable adhesive can be coated on the inner film layer 12 along the outside perimeter of the first panel 22. The releasable adhesive can be any pressure sensitive adhesive which allows resealing and includes, but is not limited to, the adhesives disclosed in U.S. patent application Ser. No. 11/029,626, herein incorporated by reference. The sealing panel 26 is provided with a tab 30 or other gripping feature which is not coated with adhesive 28 so that the sealing panel 26 may be peeled back from the inner film layer 12 to open the package 10.

Advantageously, the sealing panel 26 has a see-through window portion 29 which lies over the second panel 42 of the inner film layer 12 prior to the package 10 being opened for a first time which permits one to visually observe the second panel 42 adhered thereto prior to the package 10 being opened for a first time and to observe the absence of the second panel...
attached to the sealing panel 26 after the package 10 has been opened to indicate package integrity as described in the ‘497 application.

Referring now specifically to FIGS. 2a, 2b and FIG. 3, package 10 is opened by grasping tab 30 and peeling the sealing panel 26 back in the peeling direction as indicated by arrow 33 (FIGS. 2a, 2b). As the sealing panel 26 is peeled back for a first time, the first panel 22 is separated from the remainder of the inner film layer 12, including the second panel 42 and a portion of the strips 50, 52, 54, along the first film layer tear line 20. Strip portions 50a, 52a, 54a remain integrally attached to the remaining portion of the inner film layer 12, and strip portions 50b, 52b, 54b remain integrally attached to the first panel 22 (FIG. 3). In addition, tab portions 27 separate from sealing panel 26 and remain attached to the inner film layer 12 due to adhesive 28, to thereby form holes 32 in the sealing panel 26 (FIGS. 2 and 3).

Initially, upon opening the closure 11, the strip portions 50a, 52a, 54a separate from the sealing panel 26 while strip portions 50b, 52b, 54b remain attached to the sealing panel 26 as shown in FIG. 3. At some point upon peeling sealing panel 26 back, strip 52 preferably first breaks at narrowing strip portion 52c while strips 50 and 54 remain intact (FIG. 2a). When strip 52 breaks, an audible sound, such as a snap is produced. As shown in FIGS. 2a and 2b, the strips may be spaced apart a distance less than the largest dimension of the contents, shown for example in FIGS. 2a and 2b as a cookie 58, so that in practice before strip 52 has been broken, the spacing between the strip is too small for removal of a cookie 58.

Pulling the sealing panel 26 further in direction of arrow 33 further opens the closure 11 and eventually strips 50 and 54 break at narrowing strip portion 50c, 54c, respectively. As each strip breaks an audible sound such as a snap occurs. Advantageously, the strip narrowing portion 50c, 54c are at the respective same position along the strip 50, 54 so that the strips 50 and 54 break at the same time, thereby producing a unified or single audible sound. Since strip 52 breaks prior to strips 50, 54, two audible sounds are produced, one upon strip 52 breaking, and a second one as strips 50 and 54 break simultaneously.

Package integrity is indicated by closure 11 through several novel features incorporated into the closure 11. Package integrity is indicated visually by one observing the intact integrally joined strips 50, 52, 54 which advantageously break upon opening the closure 11 a sufficient amount prior to allowing one to remove contents therein thereby indicating package integrity. Further, package integrity is indicated by audible sounds produced when the strips break, whereby the audible sound indicates that the package is being opened for a first time.

In addition, package integrity is indicated by the visual indication of a portion 34 of the sealing panel 26, shown as black outlined letters for the word “SEALED,” and a portion 36 of the inner film layer 12 spanning a portion of the panel 22, shown as being gray, which is viewable through the window portion 29 prior to the closure 11 being opened for a first time (FIG. 1), and a middle portion of the word “SEALED” having a void 46 which void exists because the second panel 42, which was present and intact before the package was opened the first time, has now fallen down in the package and is not visible in the void area 46. The void area 46 is thus shown as not shaded after the closure has been opened and resealed (FIG. 4).

Further, since the sealing panel 26 does not generally return to its exact original position, but instead is slightly misaligned relative to its original position, package integrity is indicated by such misalignment of the sealing panel holes 32 with the tab portions 25 after the sealing panel 26 has been opened and resealed (FIG. 4).

Referring to FIG. 5, like elements to those of the embodiment of FIGS. 1-4 are increased by 100. Package 110 comprises a thermal formed tray 60 which forms the sides 116 and ends 61, 62. A two-ply film material comprising an inner film layer 112 and an outer film layer 113 are sealed to flange 63 of the thermal formed tray 60. Like package 10, pulling back on tab 130 separates the sealing panel 126 from the outer film layer 113 and separates the first panel 122 from the inner film layer 112, portions of the strips 150, 152, 154 and the second panel 142. After package 110 has been opened for a first time, the strips 150, 152, 154 will break at narrowing strip portions 150c, 152c, 154c producing an audible sound upon breaking and providing a visual indication of package integrity status that the package has been previously opened as shown in FIG. 5.

Package 110 can be used for various food items, such as cheese, sliced meats and the like. In addition, package 110 can be used for semi-sold items, such as pudding and yogurt. Although package 110 is depicted as having a rectangular shape, the package 110 can have any shape, including cylindrical and irregular.

The inner and outer film layers 112, 113 may be formed of the same material as layers 12, 13, which includes polypropylene, polyethylene, cellophane or any other polymeric material suitable for forming a package enclosure.

Referring now to FIGS. 6-8, like elements of the embodiment of FIGS. 1-4 are increased by 200. The sealing panel 226 has a see-through window portion 229 which lies over strip 254 of the inner film layer 212 prior to the package 210 being opened for a first time, which permits one to visually observe the strip 254 adhered thereto prior to the package 210 being opened for a first time. Like package 10, pulling back on tab 230 separates the sealing panel 226 from the outer film layer 213 and separates the first panel 222 from the inner film layer 22 and portions of strips 250, 252 and 254. After package 210 has been opened for a first time, the strips 250, 252, 254 will break at narrowing strip portions 250c, 252c, 254c, producing an audible sound upon breaking, and providing a visual indication of package integrity status that the package has been previously opened, as shown in FIG. 7. In addition, package integrity status is evidenced by the absence of portions of the strip 254 being attached to the sealing panel 226 after the package 210 has been opened.

Referring now specifically to FIG. 8, package integrity status is also indicated by the visual indication of a portion 234 of the sealing panel 226, shown as black outlined letters for the word “SEALED,” prior to the closure 211 being opened for a first time (FIG. 6), and a middle portion of the word “SEALED,” having a void 246 which void exists because the strip 254 which was present and intact before the package was opened the first time has now fallen down into the package and is not visible at void 246. This void 246 is thus shown as not shaded after the closure has been opened and resealed (FIG. 5). In addition, like package 10, package integrity status is indicated by a slight misalignment of the sealing panel holes 232 with the tab portions 225 after the sealing panel 226 has been opened and resealed (FIG. 6) in a similar manner as package 10. Referring now to FIGS. 9 and 10, in accordance with another embodiment, package 310 has a single strip 352 located at a mid-portion of the opening 324. Package 310 is designed to accommodate a single row of food items, such as cookies 358.

Referring now to FIGS. 9 and 10, in accordance with another embodiment, package 310 has a single strip 352
located at a mid-portion of the opening 324. Package 310 is
designed to accommodate a single row of food items, such as
cookies 358.

Tear lines 323a and 323b form a pair of integrity indicating
panels 342a, 342b, respectively. When the package 310 is
opened for a first time, the panels 342a, 342b remain inte-
grally joined to the inner film layer 312 at one end 344a, 344b,
even after the package 310 is opened, and the remainder of the
panels 342a, 342b fall down into the opening 324, as
described in more detail in the '497 application.

Package 310 includes a sealing panel 326 with a pair of
see-through window portions 329a, 329b which lie over pan-
els 342a, 342b, respectively, of the inner film layer 312 prior
to the package 310 being opened for a first time. The see-
through windows 329a, 329b permit one to visually observe
the panels 342a, 342b adhered thereto prior to the package
310 being opened for a first time and to observe the absence
of the sealing panels 342a, 342b attached to the sealing panel
326 after the package 310 has been opened to indicate pack-
age integrity status.

Once package 310 has been opened and resealed, package integrity status is evidenced by the absence of the panels
342a, 342b attached to the sealing panel 326 in a similar
manner as indicated for second panel 42 in package 10. In
addition, like package 10, the integrity of package 310 is
observable by a misalignment of the sealing panel holes 332
with the tab portion 325 after the sealing panel 326 has been
opened and resealed (FIG. 11). Further package integrity
status is provided by an audible sound as strip 352 breaks
when package 310 is opened for a first time.

The present invention specifically shows embodiments
with three rows of food products (such as cookies) with three
strips and with a single row of food products (such as cookies)
and a single strip. It is to be understood that the invention is
applicable to packages with any number of rows of food
products, wherein the number of strips will be selected as
desired, considering the number of rows of food products, the
width of the package and the desired spacing of the strips.
Also, different sized packages can employ any desired num-
er of windows, whether such windows lie over second or
third panels or over one or more strips. In addition, the food
products can be arranged in rows across the package, or the
food product may involve no rows at all, such as for peanuts.
In any of these arrangements, the present invention can
include any suitable number of strips and/or any suitable
number of sealed windows.

As will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that the
present package integrity feature of the present closure offers
benefits over prior tamper-evident or package integrity fea-
tures.

The invention claimed is:

1. A package having a package integrity feature, the pack-
age comprising:
a wrapper forming a top, sides, and a bottom of the pack-
age, the wrapper being a two-ply material with first and
second layers;
a closure formed in the two-ply material at the top being
defined by a first cut formed in the first layer defining a
first panel and a second cut formed in the second layer
defining a second panel, the closure being separable
from a remainder of the first and second layers to expose
an access opening;
an elongated frangible strip connecting the closure with the
remainder of the package, the elongated frangible strip
defined by a pair of elongated cuts and having a first end
and a second end and a frangible area in between the first
end and second end; and

upon initial opening of the package, the frangible strip
breaks along the frangible area, thereby providing a
visual indication of the package being opened.

2. The package of claim 1 wherein the closure comprises a
free end portion and a fixed end portion, and the frangible
strip being associated with the free end portion.

3. The package of claim 2 wherein the closure further
comprises a starter portion disposed adjacent the free end
portion, the starter portion graspable by a user to peel the
closure back from the remainder of the package, the starter
portion being disposed relative to the frangible strip so that
the starter portion is movable prior to the frangible strip
breaking.

4. The package of claim 1 wherein the second layer is
disposed over the first layer.

5. The package of claim 4 wherein the second panel com-
pletely covers the first panel.

6. The package of claim 4 wherein the frangible strip is cut
into the first layer with one end integrally formed with the
first panel and another end integrally formed with a remainder
of the first layer.

7. The package of claim 1 wherein the package contains
food items.

8. The package of claim 1 wherein an intact frangible strip
provides a visual indication that the package has not been
previously opened.

9. The package of claim 1 wherein a broken frangible strip
provides a visual indication that the package has been pre-
viously opened.

10. The package of claim 1 wherein the pair of elongated
cuts extend away from a portion of an edge of the closure.

11. The package of claim 1 wherein the elongated frangible
strip includes a weakened portion.

12. The package of claim 11 wherein the weakened portion
is in the form of a narrowing of a portion of the elongated
frangible strip.

13. The package of claim 1 wherein the elongated frangible
strip breaks into two portions upon the initial opening of
the package.

14. A package comprising:
a two-ply structure forming a top, sides, and bottom of the
package;
a closure formed in the two-ply structure, the closure
capable of being separated at least in part from the pack-
age to expose an access opening;
the closure is defined by two off-set cuts partially disposed
through the two-ply structure;
a breakable structure connecting the closure to a remainder
of the two-ply structure, wherein the breakable structure
is defined by a pair of elongated side cuts in the two-ply
structure, the breakable structure disposed between the
pair of elongated side cuts, the pair of elongated side cuts
and the breakable structure extending transverse to the
off-set cuts; and
the closure having a starter portion graspable by a user to
peel the closure back to separate the closure at least in
part from the package to expose the access opening, the
starter portion being disposed relative to the breakable
structure so that the starter portion is movable prior to
the breakable structure breaking.

15. The package of claim 14 wherein the closure comprises
a flap formed in a first layer of the two-ply structure and a
sealing panel formed in a second layer of the two-ply struc-
ture.

16. The package of claim 15 wherein the top of the package
is oriented such that the sealing panel covers the flap.
17. The package of claim 14 further comprising releasable adhesive disposed at least in between portions of the two-ply structure.

18. The package of claim 14 wherein the package is releasable such that the access opening can be resealed after the closure has been separated at least in part from the package.

19. The package of claim 14 wherein the two off-set cuts include a first cut disposed in a first layer of the two-ply structure and a second cut disposed in a second layer of the two-ply structure.

20. The package of claim 14 wherein the breakable structure comprises an elongated strip of flexible film having sides defined by the pair of elongated side cuts.

21. The package of claim 14 wherein the breakable structure includes a weakened portion.

22. The package of claim 21 wherein the weakened portion comprises a narrowing of a portion of the breakable structure.

23. The package of claim 14 wherein the breakable structure breaks into two portions upon initial package opening.